American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
September 22, 1929–November 18, 1929

Box Number:	***Folder Number:***
1	25

Lin Ke chuang -
Miles out in Country
Sunday Eve. Sept 22 '29

My dearest mumsie!

Let's see when I wrote — just before I went thru all the agony of getting off to the country. This time it was easier tho (or I write with a candle on the dresser and can, a nice flowery piece of oil cloth on the table — I have a hundred pairs of eyes all watching this great performance of writing a letter — remarking about all the queer curls of writing & speed of writing & a man has just asked the question that convulsed me & all the crowd — "What country wears all the hairnets that we have make: & then said why do they wear them — because they think they are pretty or to keep their heads warm!" as I said it was some easier to get off etc I had just gotten nicely settled (became theirs the pretty ones from my 7, 9 after 4 weeks & till now might fade them) & curtains up & pictures etc & do love I take them all down & pack up somewhat & locks up. I was all settled at one time 18th to leave out on nite of 19 & rained a lot & all questioned whether I'd get off — Packed & fixed till later date went to bed with it raining see rain like means roads impossible because most of the roads have been worn down below the level of the fields so in a big rain just become ditches. Next A.M. cooks & I rapsun on our toes on board & then in — go or not go? looked like rain & was raining. At last we thought it was too late & too bad. We sent decided

2] not to go + suddenly discovered that I was very tired + headachy so I just piled in bed + slept four hours straight (came back + rested + fixed my inner clinic garments I'd found, too long. I wrote that list I mailed to you + P.M. one of sailors came up - surprised to see me home cause I'd told him goodbye monday nite. We went to the meeting a famous Chinese was holding at the Bapt. church -
Early Thursday a.m. cook got up at 3:30 + we got all off - by bit of rush at last - off to train with luggage. Had good time giving out gospels + talking to those around me. Down at station + packed into the cart - + across the fields of beans + peanuts we rode 5 hrs. in the cart - - this price was too high but our luggage was heavy - one bed roll, my book suitcase, medicine box, my suitcase + cook's, three baskets - Isn't it awful? I just hate so much luggage but one just has to be resigned to it take your bed wherever you go. + all you use for six weeks. Am taking less + less connecting to - but it seems cullit down as I will I have these indespensibles. Going back it will be lighter this that consolation. If I could eat bean oil I'd not need to bring bottles of peanut oil - for cooking but I just don't like it + so its all in a life time.

Later Sept. P.M.
Sept 28,

Now I've a few minutes to write so I must hasten because soon there will be a crowd in for eyes (during years) this place has much a host of the latter) Salts + soda, wanting boils dressed + what not - + then we must go to see an invalid before supper + there I will put gentian violet on a girls impitigo scab in her hair - come back + eat supper before a less crowd tonite as

3] the Teacher fer in school told them the other nite after a crowd knocked the table + some bottles fell that they must not come in. They sort of filter in just the same. Then after supper — will go out in the little vacant place before the house + Miss Wang will continue her continued Story "of Creation on ---(wire back into Palestine with Jews now) to the 100 or more who come every nite + squat on the clean-sweptground + listen most attentively. The lantern swung from the limb of a tree rather gives an air of grandeur to our meeting house. I love meeting at these nights. Stars are so bright + clear + there is just enuf coolness in air to be snappy, the noisy children, [the inevitable [here is a bait to be done - I told him to wait a little while] attenders of every meeting that matter attend. We are glad too for the matter to come even so but often the result is in absolute silence + the matter has to be more or less in + out — but its the only way for some, so we are glad if they get a little even.] are asleep on the mud beds at home, the men busy all day in the fields planting fall wheat, reaping beans etc have a chance to rest a minute, all is quiet + Heaven seem near indeed + we feel the great need of just this in every one of the millions of rural villages in China yet untouched. First I play my old standby, the guitar. It has been over many miles + its rather battered — had several falls that have split open its sides + had been mended with the clever Chinese way of putting in little brass rivets — but still it rings + isn't so worn either as to spoil its sound it is sweet as before — but still it will do!

4. Sun. nite. I just got that for + we had to go + a lot came in for "medely". This Sunday has been just blessed! How wonderful our Saviour is + How I praise Him for His help + presence + glory of walking with Him today. I was asked to lead service this a.m. See its been since June that I've led + so I felt ever more the need of Him + His help!! He was present + I did so enjoy doing it. I love it. Before I was up folks came in on being told Sun. wid not have dysentery - but even so one man came with a very bad eye - I did his. then breakfast - grapes (oh we get lovely ones here big juicy ones + so cheap as there is no way to get them to a big market, sweet potatoes - (just now coming in), rare steamed squash, + boiled peanuts - sounds a funny array eh?, + whole wheat meal but not so bad tho! Then after prayer (all cooks + he always prays for your mummie dear -) a few more came in from a long way + I cared for them. After church service I had a luxurious + hour (in bath tho) with "Border of Yale". It is so good. I do not have much time to read + you see less to write so I enjoyed it. Then there came an old lady "blind" led about 3 li by a neighbor to be "cured" Her only son had just been killed to her + she cried. How wished I could restore her sight but He knows the best; we tried to make her understand the gospel story - but a heathen mind so full of all the superstitions + all seem not always readily understand — + it is not to be wondered at - However she got straight who Jesus is + that she must pray - to Him + said some for! She had a portion of my dinner + then went on — a little sleep + then they called me again as swollen infected thumb, a running ear, indigestion, raw eye lids, from a long way - Then closed + another session with the poor head filled with empties + now supper over - Ionite will no go out to have meeting - Some few have come to sing with the cooks not far away

5]
Miss Wang + Mrs Chow are in bed + I must soon be. I must be up early. This week we're to have prayer meeting for church members - most of meetings so far have been for outriders - which I am to lead. Sorry we didn't get at them earlier - but I hope they'll be a blessing + help. I can do more with Christian groups so far - as one's language handicap is less of a handicap as they know the vocabulary so to speak + can understand better. The Lit is getting better - oh! I do so long for the time I can speak just like they do + know their idioms etc so well I can be a more useful witness. Sometimes etc "mat-literary common expressions of the Bible women" - just a word or two get meanings over as "pat" + expressively I wonder if I'll be able to do that some day. Well, it isn't perfection of language (tho I surely do not discount that) that wins the soul After all it is the weak things of world that

bring to naught the great—
I only want to an empty
useable vessel— I find so
much of "self" wanting to
intrude! It surely is a
"dig-hard" + wanting to take
glory to "self" etc—
Say. Ray. Get "Visions of
Sundar Singh" It is great—
I think tell me what you think of
it!
Must say nite-nite. Sister dear,
are you well & strong again!
Mummie is so happy with you
+ Ray - I am so glad for
it all—

Most lovingly—
Irene.

Changchia P.w.
About 100 li from home
October 14. 1929

Dearest Minnie Precious!

Tomorrow there is a "chi" — a market thirteen li away so I'll try to have a letter ready to go to you by those who go to market. These markets are a great institution. See for miles there is no regular store + in all there may (little) + large villages dotting the broad small plain there are no little shops or store - may be one person sells kerosene or a few very small articles but eatables + purchases of any sort are just not to be had. Each village trying to do its own business of this kind - in certain villages + in fact every village one day in a certain interval has a "market day" some villages every five day others ten days etc. On market days farmers, and venders pack their store in baskets swung from the two ends of a bamboo carrying pole balanced on the shoulder - + walk these distances sometimes 2 or 3 often 25 li to sell their produce. Those who buy like wise carrying a basket, or maybe two on the long pole, or have swung over the shoulder a canvas two pocket sack. From every direction one can see folks coming on market days - They take the main street of the village for market + line both sides spreading out the small articles on a cloth spread on the ground + larger things will in baskets. All the meat sellers will be at one place, cabbage at another, fish at another, flat steamed bread, chickens, rulers, big baskets woven of willows all have a stall + the market is on!

21. This is early in morning. Mrs Clow & Wang are not up yet the coach boy has come yet with hot water. I am sitting on my cot beside an open back door & just the cat and me for the good air strike & back in behind the curtain made room in the day time. As I was unable yesterday to finish my letter I thought I'd hurry up & finish at least a page so would have a letter anyway - altho not much in it! Yesterday a.m I studied 2½ hrs. with Mr Chi my teacher & then had dinner of rice with Mrs. Clow in their home & courtyard we first sent a part. a nice hot bowl of millet & sweet potatoes cooked together - just delicious! I'm p.m went to village home - 2 - one the son is an evangelist near Liangtao. His mother & the boy were ill when I stayed but are much better in christ. The second home - not christians - very wealthy comparatively - just a daughter 30 yrs. & mother. They now want to find her a husband christian & Lord because the mother would not let her go younger & she is very particular. The girl is very pretty - They listened to Mrs C & W last spring here & seemed interested - They first & have taken to very high class practice of smoking & drinking tea; They smoked a water pipe. It has a deep bowl filled with water & the tobacco just a pinch we put on a long stem above - It's interesting that all the pipes I've seen first had a wee bit of tobacco - while they smoke lots - still it doesn't seem to be quite so expensive - for an ounce of pipe full would last fifteen or twenty I should say of these little bowls. How we need the power of christ just to upset lives & give them a place. Before we went we fixed a little girls head - just full of empetigo sick, had medicine. Gave her quite a character. Really chinese out - like little children. - cut close - all but a triangle of bangs in front running to a point to middle of her head

3] Shisa night but not half the night she was before - I never realize many till - I'd just seen a scattered one or two - but she had scores of them! Her aunt did the cutting tho a christian - you can see how the old superstitions hold on to them from the remote ancestors began. Who's done to cut her hair? Isn't it sin? The old idea is that to cut hair is like cutting off part of the body - taking life - that is the reason none will not yet cut off even - Came across a funny superstition the other day - my old humiliation — but - I'll come on ahead the coach whether I ate much salt - it is why dial has gone on my face. I still hope some day the master will take that away - when my heart is sufficiently humble - natto must it be surely has taught me lessons.

Last week we spent traveling — getting over it — Sun. morn. we'd planned to go to Ki-li-ang - a place distant toward Sun rise + so we had to wait - We got in a last visit at a nice christian home took care of a lot who came widely for medicine leaving I was about to [illegible] pictures of the christian group etc! Left 3:30 a m got up & be here to be ready, spent some time getting all the gunk on the three wheelbarrows - and by 6 we were off got to Sau Lien where we thought to change to big carts + then men go home. Their price was so high we went on with us! Travelled a man pulling + a mule or little donkey pulling — till P. m. 4:30 - I was awful sick & knew for a long to continually fix my seat which won't comfy at first! - We had a good time going etc; not too hot - Well, we got to the place + the minister began with awful tales of bandits + how in 3 or 4 days seven had been taken for ransom + said he'd expected to write to delay our arrival but had'n't time for letters to reach us! He plainly showed he felt our coming not most auspicious! We were not afraid! but in that condition could do much worse + the neighboring church where they wanted us

month had broken in the church. All mail we left
behind to go back with them. We paid Lily the nine
pounds we owed her for the mission work she had done
from Mrs Clay's time. Early the next morning
the second day to pull all on + come back.
We were hard on us + the men + animals 120 lbs
but to walk pulling a heavy load is different!
Noon we got dinner in an open + were at mile
glad to get the - started at the frightful country.
the cats raid - "We prayed you back - as last
night I prayed please send them back soon" Mr
Chastald he not to pray that way again; well
Ibis 9 slept + ate rice water to try to clear up
running bowel condition - Friday as the latter
with Lepiare to get us no p.m. I studied again
Sat. the borrow came at 10 o'clock + after
dinner we got loaded on again. Our dinner
went to "chi" a li away + a load of rubber had just
come + the villagers decided not to let them on +
had closed the gate + all the murders at the
market had fled - so we shuttled along no as
not to meet them - no excitement + Lenders -
settled down - Jacks are busy stealing beans -
I received Phil on the borrow coming. Well, we are here
in good old Bible way - no daytime not many folks
so will visit scattered christians in nearby villages
two nights over 100 have come to Lord + we pray to
receive Him! How dependent we are on the power
only!! Sunday till church service - I love it -
Much love - much love - Steve.

2 Tsi Yang Road
October 27 1929
Tsingtao - -

Dearest Mumsie:

Back home for a few days - a week in fact so now this Sun. P.M. I'll begin my visit with you. I hardly know where to begin + the day has been so full of this + that that is is almost church time now- The "this + that" has mostly been trying to help the cook thru a hard time - His just had news of his brother's death + is quite upset over the whole thing + were been in agony of decision all day about his going home. I surely am sorry - but from my own viewpoint it surely is hard if he goes because this week will be one awful one anyway + to try to break in a substitute is an awful proceeding - The last decision is he won't go + I've about come to the conclusion I'll say he can't - as he's having to borrow 3 months salary to pay the left over bills + for coffin etc. It surely is hard for these poor with such a narrow margin of existence for these extra calls - Well, now I'll try to think of something else as this has taken pretty well all day- etc. It is rather an interesting test of faith but a wonderful experience. This is the brother who helped me a month last year + we had prayer - + I taught him. Later he went

to dear old Mrs. Lis + she also taught him.
When home for his (cook's) wedding this summer (the first
plan was he was to have been married last winter
- went home planning to be but got there + it
was postponed till summer - you asked in your
letter) his brother was ill + the cooks talked
to him a lot. He's been ill two months + all these
months we've prayed he'd be saved by this
illness + his family. On return from country
they'd sent for clothes etc - so that nite I
was praying + so clearly came the voice "you
need not pray for him - your prayer is answered.
The next day word came of his death two
weeks earlier - I believe tho there may be no
visible manifestation or outward proof of his
change + we can't know now - that he is
saved. Only once before have I had such an
unmistakable voice speaks to me - + that
was when Mrs. Gofarth was ill + we'd prayed
so for her - it came - "I have seen thy
tears + heard thy prayer". Then + this time I
wasn't sure which way it would be -
but I knew that it was all right + I had
peace. This time I believe it was given me
to be able to comfort the cooks. I don't
the slightest doubt but it! Tho there were
no fruits or worthiness - but who is worthy -
We are
How great is the love of god + how infinite
this grace + how faith can conquer. I does
praise Him for His love + mercy + that
He will condescend to dwell with us in
our hearts! + thus speak to us!!
Must go to get off to church!
Mon. nite. I do so want to get this off! + it
seems just to not write itself: Today - I got
Isabel's wedding gift off - don't think - She's

3) to marry John Kuhn Nov. 14. Thx present will be late but I just got the news! a letter waiting in my big pile on my return home — She is very happy + they are surely well mated. Then after getting all this off I studied 2 hrs + then again at this P.M. — after class went out to get cloth to cover my new quilt — my last "needed", I hope, added to my country effects; I mean last big purchase — ~~of them~~ quilt. I used Mrs. E's all last year — + was now I have one 6' by 6' it was $7.40 — or about $13 gold — pretty expensive — but I never have bought it for town use as my new mattress is so warm + have enough blankets out in country it's just a necessity — to carry so many covers — makes a big pack bed roll + it's just plain odd — even this time I felt it more so I feel it wasn't a luxury! Things that will enable me to live out in country + keep well I do not count luxuries! So be sure the chimes do not have them — They're used to it — also they all sleep on the hot brick or mud beds. The food cooking heats the bed + that's very different from a cold bed. Anyway — I got it — + a very gay cover to put over its white interior covering. Then got a pair of slacks truly I hope I'm glad to keep feet from freezing this year. These are velvet lined with heavy woolen cloth — with a crepe rubber sole — This will be warmer than

4] leather - + will give me a pair between the thin cloth I wear now + cotton padded slacks miss Clair made for me. - Then at worst comes my "saloopers" - the felt "old man's toppiners" shoes - Today the teacher said one could buy high felt stockings to Knee: I think I'll keep warm this year! It's just a matter of experiencing + knowing how to protect one's self! So don't worry about my feet this year. Matter if you haven't don't worry about the underwear I can manage very well with these old suits I guess. I sorry you were troubled about it. If you've sent them all right but I hope you haven't. —

Now to answer this nice pile of mail fine letters. I got home + made a dash for the letter + I did have a table full of papers etc. magazines not opened yet. There were five letters from you + so many from friends - I just read + enjoyed them. See I'd now forwarded — no the six weeks no mail at all. Then after I'd read the most important I made a dash down to the Coomaldt's to see them — just home from America + to the Davies to say hello - ate supper with Mrs. C, as we'd used up all the supplies before coming in - + that nite there was a concert - at the german club — just lovely - I did so enjoy it!! a Russian pianist, + German soloists + they gave an excellent concert - not too loony! Weary - I crawled to bed! Sat, the was so much - getting rooms in order

5] a bit + pulling out winter clothes, + some fixing in the kitchen, getting coats rolled — endless - array — Coming home this time tho was very much easier than before. The house wasn't so bad etc! Thank you. can use the picture cords. Eida, The operation seems to have been very much a success, no pain or special discomfort. You asked why I moved. See, the Coonradt's house which was empty as they were on furlough wasn't available again + as Claudia eldest daughter is gone + Charles is in American school that left their school room empty with a living room which they never used in winter — so I have them. So glad Warren had such a fine trip!! + that they went to Entrpirse + also saw Tony + Anna! They give had a great trip — so glad they asked him back. That is fine if they can get the Presbytery so well started with a confession of faith!! That was the most unique thing I've heard- the twin show! Imagine 208 pairs - It is just a wonder — where did they all come from, for what was the prize given ? most striking resemblance ? That's quite a joke about your trip up to Woodburn — + Eulai saying you'd not stay the two weeks. Renters dictating to the owner must not be the most agreeable circumstance!

My! ok re Bertha's check! Isn't she just a dear! I was just so surprised! Tony, you please write her + thank her. I'll try to but have just this week here + such a pile of things to do besides getting ready to go + studying. That is just wonderful! I'll see just where

4] I'll use it later. As yet haven't used the other I think I'll send some to the blind boy. May the master use it to His glory! I feel such a responsibility for such funds - such sacrifices! I'll mail it at once because rate now is 2.50 mex for $1 gold. I don't love he address, The Eaves aren't located here but interior in Texas - they come here for the summer - only before that year they'd evacuated here so that's why I said they'd be leaving. Thanks mumsie dearest. You just do so much for me! The Current Events came + I enjoy it! You're done too much!! Don't bother about the fruit it may be too expensive + I can manage very well without it so just don't bother! I don't want you to spend so much on me dearest one! My sweet little darling mumsie! Mrs. Sparkhurst said a friend had come out on the "Empress of Canada" from Vancouver $142.00 paid third class + it was most comfy + fine, really! She was quite thrilled because she wants her sister to come too! I don't believe it would be worthwhile to send jams + jellies dear. I don't know about duty but I don't eat very much — I don't have it maybe that's the reason — but do not miss it much, Mrs. C last year gave me canned fruit which I haven't opened + also what I canned I haven't eaten at all. Maybe a can of jelly in christmas box - You'd have to seal it in tin as the cake - too much trouble!! But I'd love another

7] such cake someday! But that too
never mind. I can make cake here! That
was sweet of Anna to think of sending them
Thank her + tell her "twinkling" - That's a cute
expression which means my heart accepts
it as if I really received it + it is in my
heart - even more lasting than if I had
eaten it! Yes, dear, I feel you're right
about going to Ki. You'd not be happy!
You never liked it before + the cold would
be a trial etc - I am sure, too, we're all
more satisfied that you are where you
are! I am so glad you're so happy there
They are so wonderful and I am glad
you're with them! Mummie dear, I'm so
sorry you've had such a mess with renters
etc - wish I could make it easier someway.
Am glad too that you've gotten all that
operation over - Am hoping you're well entirely
now! Honey precious, take good care of your-
self + be sure to let me know if I can
do anything to make you happy!

That last few letters + report aren't printed
yet! I wrote them to Murry + get them off!
I'll go soon for 1 month + still there will be
a little delay! I guess I'll just write on
Merry Christmas + let it go at that. It is so
hard to do much + be out so much. About
your suggestion of my not sending gifts. I
have them already planned + almost all
bought so I'll send them on. I do so little
for my loved ones; I want to do a bit. They
are smaller gifts this year — I'll mail
them this week. Also in one box Mummie
because its such a long, red-tape to

8] mail packages + we have it time. It was nice of Rachel to write for Letts. I hope soon she can have this last one!

You spoke of that famine works of two winters ago! Honey up in N.W. China it is true that conditions are such that they are eating children — 3 years not anything — trading children not being willing to eat their own! My teacher had a letter from a relative! He said it was a punishment because in that section they were unusually bad + lawless etc!

Ah, Master, please come back soon!

It is wonderful how the Lord's send things isn't it? Hope Eula gets some nice things out of the "barrel" + enjoys them!

Yes. Mrs. Conradt gave me a nice box — of assorted American candy — its so good. Am munching a piece as I work out in the sun on the porch to write + sun before meeting time. We are having local council meeting and so far its a bit dull. I'm not at all keen about administrative details. Glad I'm not tied up permanently with that kind of thing — but can be free for the touch with folks!

Paper this a.m. announces Russia wants to + is to begin an aggressive campaign on all of the Manchuria frontier — ah what will come of it I wonder! Mrs. Eames wrote that Moseley is better. In all the rush of getting off she left her pretty tall coat — it is a shame for it was so lovely!

I'll bet the twins are 'live wires + I'm glad! Baseball fans!! That's fine. Tell him to keep

9 up the good work! I just can't feature them on a ball team etc. I have to pinch myself to realize they are growing all the time + aren't the same little fellows that took me to Seattle.

I haven't written of the last of the country trip! My! but I had a glorious ending! We were at Wa Ke Chung for three days: visiting villages + having services at nite + daytime talking some with a group of girls 12 - 16 yrs. who are in a workshop there - They are sorting + fastening in bundles the hair nets that are made in just loads of villages all over by girls at home. They had a kind there - I wish you might enlighten me concerning them; a light lavendar in color - not grey but a decided lavendar - WHO wears them at home? also that color + grey + tan color hunt long in [redacted] This slope - The men said oh yes, these last mentioned are also worn on the head - or maybe, his quick mind conceived the idea - this long kind on a braid ?!, I said no but couldn't go him one better at guessing! so I think they just think I don't understand and I don't!

Well Miss C. + W. left me to go to their home + I to go thru a village where there were only two christians + one inquirer, In that place I'd rather get a bus home or cart to the railroad. I walked the 10 li - ahead of the cart of baggage, the teacher + cook behind + seemed just heavenly to have a quiet time alone. The Master was very near + dear

10/. We got there + the teacher found the mr. Mao, a former student nurse at Changfoo now at home, He took us to the sort of public guest room in connection with the temple. The temple + grounds + spacious hall for + the new year worship of ancestors, were all well kept + covered mud ground. This is a big village of over 400 families - The temple has about 60 or more acres of land to support it. The priest was very cordial + made tea - soon mr. Mao came + the usual crowd of folks to see! After a while they opened the school house in the adjoing courtyard - This had four large empty buildings formerly used for a school but now a small one is supported by temple money. It is my first experience to find a temple doing something like this for benefit at the people, (I find now, later, it has been a common practice since the Communistic Party Law.) The priest stayed around most of the time + heard all that was said but did intrapose anything. They were quite perturbed I think? - he was a foreign woman - first they'd ever seen + how to treat her, feed her etc seemed to loom quite large. They were relieved when I said I ate just what they did but they need not bother I had all I needed! This inquirer, had a nice guest room so they decided to put me there provided I'd not disdain it!! When I asked the christian woman to sleep on her bed - in her home - She was delighted beyond words + they gradually breathed easy. I assured them not to let my presence cause them trouble, Threw it all they were most cordial + hospitable + solicitious. for breakfast

11) next day Mrs. Mao got up early to make the little meat dumplings for me. + Mr. Mao relieved to know I could eat them + followed for + for noon asked me to eat them at his house. Well, first day p.m. a crowd came of old women, + young + children many carrying the ever-present babies. The guitar helped a lot + sang + the teacher talked + I talked too. I know many understood at least some but I'll never think I can talk until ignorant old ladies in the country all can understand my preaching - I have it so much trouble with ordinary conversation with these old ladies - they can understand - but to present new ideas to them is a diffrent matter. Some understand but my ideal is to be able to get the most difficult ones to hear + understand! Then for 1 hr gave - medicine + then went on to Mrs. Maos where a crowd gathed on the mud bed; I went back to church for supper + at the crowd - mostly men, a few women + no children to speak of! It was interesting - men in china, I mean in country + according to old ideas but + women just stand on old bound feet + suffer. Well, the seats were all full women standing + teacher asked the men to get up to let them sit - it took a bit of persuasion - after instruction went soon they got up + let them sit. I had expected to say something but not to have a full service for I felt time too precious! I did surely wish for Mrs C + Wang but it was good for me to be alone too! Well, they were so still + appreciatly understanding so well + I felt the Spirit really was using its words + I was loving such a good time I talked best part of an hr maybe less, I expect; It was a blessed experience. Then went home with Mrs. Mao + spent nite on k'ang but k'ang with her two daughters She was so grateful that I went; She is from

[2] a christian home but married to a non-christian - & for a long time the only one in the village a christian now this Mr. Mao has come back to his home - She gets pretty discouraged - says she's a lost sheep. I was so glad to be with her & have a chance to talk with her & cheer her up a bit. She's done pretty well for her riddles - one girl 16 - has had 2 yrs. school - oldest born - boys are small! The next day right after breakfast they came to get me to give medicine so I went back to school home & straight put in eye medicine, gave out salts & soda & doctored but my bottles were pretty well empty by then so the awful boils etc that came I couldn't touch at all then beyond my skill anyway! Then after that had read to us afraid that day at the Mr. Mao's home. This wife isn't a christian but was very friendly & listened carefully - agreeing with it all - it it would only be from heart all right. They discussed when I could come back. Mr. M. amused me, he too had bemoaned fact that Miss C. & W. hadn't come - but the next day said - But folks all want you to come back for sure, They are most eager! Oh! well it was sweet! I know it wasn't I they want it is all of the Master & for His glory - I thank Him for the sweet experiences These days are so precious I love it so out in country!! We found some old "skeletons" in couple of places that have made the churches fall away - Please pray for a Mr Lii & Mr. Chuig - also for a Mr Yü & Chiang. I feel so burdened for them !! I know it before fasted & prayed but I feel I may - it will only be a "miracle of grace" that can clear up these things - Wed. Hope If I don't mail this it will be endless — Wed. Have had two days meetings with local committee & problems & encouragements both challenge us!. Am enclosing some letters — use as you like —

Much much love to you dearest mummie, & Paula I've carried your letter over miles to answer it but I send just heaps of love. Am so proud of you & your works & self. God bless you. Mummie is so happy with you — Love, dearest ones, Irene

Tsingtao, China

November 18th, 1929.

Dear friends:—

Its two years ago this week since I landed on China shores and they say if one is going to write a book it should be done soon after arriving on foreign shores. I have not written for two months any letters of length so I seem to have enough on hand now to write a book, but I shall try to condense it into a long letter.

After the wonderful month of August in Tai Shan I was given another special grant of a week in which to take Miss Mary E. Markley to Peking. What a privilege! First of all, to take her especially and secondly to see Peking again. We visited nearly all the places I had seen while I lived there last year and saw some that I had not seen. It was a treat! And then Miss Markley spent a week here in Tsingtao with us. American visitors are so welcome and we have been especially blessed this fall in having two others with us for a week— Miss Edna Springhorn and Miss Frances Bode. It is encouraging just to show people what we are trying to do.

Perhaps you did not know that we have a dispensary at Tai Tung Chen, the East Suburb of Tsingtao. Well, it isn't very old but all the children in the neighborhood of our chapel at Tai Tung Chen know about it and the little ones who cannot go to school and are not old enough to work (for their parents are very poor) come to the dispensary every morning. If they have a sore finger or toe the nurse washes it and puts a clean bandage on it. Then they all have their hands and faces washed, but most of the time they sing songs. You would love them if you could hear them sing.

First of all I want to tell you about the bus ride to and from Tai Tung Chen. Its only a twenty minute ride. Tsingtao doesn't have any street cars and the buses have not been here many years either, so all the people are not used to them as you are at home in America. After I have studied Chinese for an hour after breakfast I leave the house and walk five blocks to a 'regular bus stop'— these stops are about half a mile apart. When the bus arrives the people who want to get on gather around the door which is in the back of the car. One old man may have a great deal of difficulty getting on because his birdcage is large and he must put it thru the door carefully. While we are getting on the conductor usually calls out, "Tai Tung Chen" as loud and fast as he can and then some one in line asks how much money its going to cost him to get to Tai Tung Chen. The bus conductor informs him it will be ten cents and he decides not to get on, so those to the rear make way for him to go on his way walking instead of riding.

When we are about ready to start a young man comes along and after asking where the bus is going, how much it will cost and will they wait a minute, he calls to his old mother up the street a way that she is to come on. He runs back to get her bundle of bedding and help her (for she has tiny bound feet) to the bus. We start off but we do not get far before we hear a loud call and the driver stops with a jirk. A man catches up with us and jumps on the bus but when he learns that we are going to Tai Tung Chen and not to another place he gets off again.

Then the conductor proceeds to collect ten cents from everybody. There are usually several soldiers and policemen in the bus and they ride free. One boy goes into detail about what a good friend he is of the driver or conductor and wants his ride free too. Sometimes the conductor gets it from him and

sometimes he doesn't. Then another man explains that he really doesn't want to ride as far as the bus goes but there is no stop nearer his home so he ought only to pay eight cents. Some try to bargain for a cheaper fare before they get on the bus.

On the way out we stop and the driver gets out and walks up the side street part way and goes into a house. In a few minutes he emerges with several bundles which he puts on top of the bus. Then he returns and gets more bundles and his wife and child and we gather that he is moving his family to Tai Tung Chen. His wife is a young woman, well dressed and she smokes a cigarette while we move on to Tai Tung Chen. Her little boy munches on a small melon, spitting the seeds on the floor of the car. An old man next to him with a long pipe sits and looks at the child and at intervals spits on the floor—sometimes perilously near the mother's pretty satin slippers.

On our way back the bus may not be so crowded but we are sure of variety and interesting people in it. In the front of the bus is a prisoner crouching on the floor. Around him sit four policemen with big guns and one of them is tied arm to arm with the prisoner by means of a rope. (Tsingtao doesn't have police patrols).

Across the aisle from us sits a bride, all dressed up in her red costume. She and her older brother are on their way to the bridegroom's home and she carries a large basket covered with red cloth, also a roll of new bedding goes with her to her new abode. Next to us is a young Chinese student who is waiting his chance to talk to us in his broken English and perhaps ask us if we can teach him some English or tell him what book to buy so that he can learn it quickly.

Then to our astonishment we find that the conductor of this bus only wants seven cents fare from us, so we give him a ten cent note and he gives us five coppers back.

Of course, all these things don't happen on one bus ride or two but they are typical. Now to tell you about the dispensary itself, which is my chief concern right now.

The history of the China Mission medical work would make a good story even though, so far, it is filled with disappointment, misunderstanding and discouragement. We feel sure that now we really have the nucleus of what we hope will soon be the Tsingtao Lutheran Hospital, and we want to tell you something of the first weeks of its existence. We planned to open the Tai Tung Chen dispensary on October 1st and again on October 10th but each time the Chinese doctor we had engaged was unable to fulfill his obligation. However, on the 15th of October we opened the door—and nobody came. The second day three patients ventured in; the third day five patients came to see the foreign nurse, and the seventh day there were twelve and that's the way things start.

The Tai Tung Chen dispensary was in charge of a Presbyterian nurse, Miss Bracken, for awhile, but it has been closed for a year and a half now. We have one little room just off the chapel and the chapel is used for the patients' waiting room. The dispensary is open everyday except Sunday from ten to eleven in the morning but a Chinese nurse and a pastor are there all morning. When I arrive at ten o'clock there are usually twenty or more children sitting in the church pews (rather benches) singing hymns; Mr. Hong, the pastor, leading them. In the dispensary I invariably find the Chinese nurse bandaging the finger or toe of some youngster, cleaning some baby's head or treating some child's eyes.

An American trained Chinese doctor comes three times a week to look over the cases and always there are those whom we know should have hospital treatment but there is no place to send them or take care of them. Today there were four such patients. What do we tell them? We have to tell them we are sorry but we cannot open out hospital for at least six or seven months. There is a Chinese hospital in Tsingtao but facilities are lacking for proper care and

they take in no charity patients. The Japanese Hospital requires money in advance and that more than the average Chinese can possibly pay. A small German hospital caters to foreigners and wealthy Chinese only.

A record is kept of all patients receiving treatment at the dispensary and at the end of the week the Bible Woman is given the names and addresses of all who have visited us. She calls on them in their homes and invites them to church and to classes for the study of the Bible. Besides the recorded patients and the many neighborhood children there is a daily average of twelve or thirteen children from our Tai Tung Chen school who come in for eye treatment. While we keep a record of their cases we do not consider them patients. Many of them should be getting cod liver oil as a regular diet if their eyes are ever to be real well, since they all have trachoma. Then, at the house in the afternoon and evening, I see an average of five or six patients daily. These are students, Bible women and Mission servants. The number of sick that I see each month, outside of dispensary hours would soon run into the hundreds if I kept a record of them.

Now let me tell you what our plans are and then all I can add is, "We plead your prayers". We hope to develop the Tai Tung Chen dispensary. Tai Tung Chen is an industrial section which is growing rapidly and in which no real medical work is carried on. As soon as possible we hope to open another dispensary in Tsingtao proper at the mission house which is to be remodeled into a hospital within the next few months. Mrs. Matzat will go on with the dispensary work in Tsimo and every five days our Chinese doctor will go out there (Tsimo is thirty miles from Tsingtao—a two-hour bus ride) to look over the patients she wants him to see. Perhaps you'd like to know why it is 'every five days' and not once a week. Well, the Chinese people in the country use the Lunar month calendar and many of them do not know what a week is in our terms, but they have a big market every five days in Tsimo and if we tell them that the doctor will come on big market day they will be there. Then, of course, most of them don't have clocks, so they will come early in the morning and wait until the doctor gets there.

These three dispensaries will meet the needs in three places and thru them will come our hospital patients. If later, we can open a dispensary at Kiaochow our plan would serve our whole field.

The various patients make the work at Tai Tung Chen very fascinating and nearly every day when I return home for lunch I have something unusual to tell Miss Moody. The day Misses Springhorn and Bode were visiting the dispensary little Li Chang Fu came in with his mother. Chang Fu had a bad abscess on his back, also an infected finger. The first time his mother brought him to the dispensary but the second day he came all alone and handed me his little red registration card. He was three years old his last birthday. For three days he didn't come and the fourth day his mother came to tell us that she had buried him in the public cemetery—rather, she had given his body to the police to bury. It seems he developed a sore throat one day and she took him to a Chinese doctor. The next day he died. This morning she brought a neighbor woman in to the dispensary and after we had taken care of the neighbor the mother told us what a good little boy Chang Fu had been. She said, "Sometimes he would rather come over to the church and sing songs than eat. I know he's in Heaven."

Another little chap, Shou Hao Ting, two years old, was brought in by his father. His abdomen was distended and his little body cold and clamy. We gave him a course of worm medicine and in three days he expelled twenty large worms.

The following account was given to me by Mrs. Wm. R. Stewart of Mukden. It is too good to keep since it shows changes in Chinese customs as Western contacts are made.

"A Chinese woman came in for a visit. She said that she had been at a pre-wedding feast that day in the home of a Chinese official; that the bride's dowry was to be taken to the groom's home the following day, and on Saturday the wedding proper was to take place. The groom is a sixteen year old boy who was one of my (Mrs. Stewart's) private pupils last year. This friend asked if I was going to the wedding. I replied that I had had no invitation. She answered, 'And you won't get any invitation, for that is not the custom here.' Then she explained that, in order to avoid any oversight and as a result hurt feelings, the family simply let it be known when the wedding is to take place. As the time approaches, you send your gift and in return you get an invitation to the wedding. Never send a wedding gift when the wedding is over, for that would mean that you wish the bride to die and another wedding to follow. So the following day I sent my wedding gift and back came the invitation to the wedding.

A Chinese house is built around an open square with a narrow verandah bordering the house on all four sides. For this occasion the open square or courtyard was covered with a matting roof and furnished a very large place for the more than two hundred guests. The time set for the bride to arrive at the groom's house was eleven o'clock, but it is not proper for her to arrive at the appointed time, else it would seem she was too anxious to get married. This bride, by the way, had her fourteenth birthday the week after she was married. So we waited for more than two hours though twice there was a cry, 'Here comes the bride' and we all rushed out to meet her only to be disappointed.

Finally the band struck up a lively tune and the ushers began to file into their places, and we knew she was coming. Straight in from the outside gate was a raised platform on which stood five men. In the center was the Master of Ceremonies, a man of two hundred pounds, whose chest was decorated with a huge pompom made of gold paper. On either side of him was a 'Middleman', one for the groom and one for the bride. They were the men who had made all the plans for this marriage. Often the groom has never seen the face of his bride until after the ceremony. In this case the groom's sister told me that she had helped her brother and the bride to exchange photographs. The two outside men were the groom's father and the bride's brother, who represented her father who was dead. These four men were decorated with huge red paper pompoms.

After the ushers had taken their places at the side of this platform the groom appeared, hand in hand with two boys about eight years of age. He had on a black suit, with a cut-a-way coat, and wore a top hat which he kept on until someone asked him to take it off. After the groom and his attendants came two young ladies, who were evidently flower girls as they carried baskets covered with red silk, which contained flowers. Then came the bride, arm in arm with two bridesmaids and behind them walked four little girls dressed in white, carrying the bride's long veil. Both the groom and the bride kept their attendants beside them thruout the ceremony.

The ceremony consisted in one of the ushers calling off the different performances on the program. There were various documents which had to be stamped by the different men on the platform. This was followed by the groom and bride bowing to each other three times, which they did as the usher called off 'One, Two, Three'. Again he called off; three different times the groom and bride together bowed to the master of ceremonies, the middlemen and the father and brother, respectively. Then the platform was cleared and the mothers lined up to be bowed to in the same way and they in turn were replaced by other relatives.

After this the band struck up "Yankee Doodle" and then we knew that they were man and wife. During almost the entire ceremony the young couple were being sprinkled with confetti and entangled with rolls of paper ribbon. Then the wedding party faced about to the photographer and picture after picture was taken by flashlight. Finally the groom and bride stood together and had their pictures taken alone.

In China it will surely bring bad luck if the bride steps on anything but red carpet. They had several yard lengths of red carpet which they used to keep her feet from the floor. As soon as she stepped on the piece in front of her, the one behind was picked up and placed in front. In this way she was led to her bedroom, the bridal party forming in line as they had when they first entered from the street. Then the groom withdrew, with his top hat, and we women went in and bowed to the bride. When this ordeal was finished the groom returned and removed the veil from the bride's head, then he went to another part of the house where the men were having their wedding feast and we saw no more of him.

We women were then invited to take seats at different tables where we were served a sumptuous feast. It is quite proper to hand some member of the family two, four, six or eight dollars (never an uneven amount) wrapped in red paper as you leave the house. After the feast a number of Chinese entertainers entertained us. The groom will go back to his studies at High School in a few days and the bride will help the mother-in-law with the housework."

May God bless your 1930 and give each and every one of you what is best for your life on earth in preparation for the life beyond.

Sincerely yours,

Lydia Reich

American Lutheran Mission
Tsingtao, Shantung, China